



# Women's Empowerment in Aquaculture: Two case studies from Indonesia

*Participation, drivers and challenges of women in shrimp farming and fish processing*

6th Global Symposium on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries (3-7 August in Bangkok, Thailand).

Irna Sari and Cynthia McDougall



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



**WorldFish**

# Introduction: Background and objective of the study

---

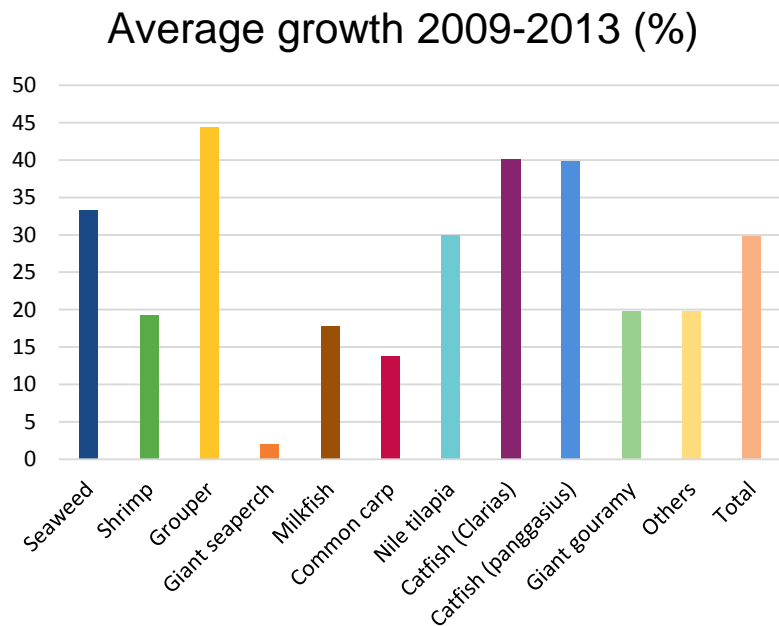
- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is spearheading the Asia and the Pacific's Blue Growth Initiative on sustainable intensification of aquaculture.
- The main focus of the initiative is promoting informed policy, good governance and improved management practices in the course of intensification of the aquaculture sector.
- The initiative seeks to enhance women's participation and empowerment in aquaculture.
- The study objective is to generate greater understanding of if—and the ways in which—women's engagement in aquaculture may contribute to women's social and economic empowerment.



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



# Context: Socio-economics of Indonesian aquaculture



Source MMAF 2014

Number of households involved in aquaculture

	2012 (HH)	2013 (HH)	Average growth 2009-2013 (%)
Mariculture	183,357	192,871	13.31
Brackish-water pond	236,806	245,390	1.55
Freshwater pond	927,755	966,229	6.21
Cage	67,874	56,069	0.02
Floating net	30,411	35,311	7.30
Rice farming integrated aquaculture	221,244	171,558	-0.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,670,447</b>	<b>1,667,428</b>	<b>4.90</b>



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



# Context: Women's roles in Indonesian aquaculture sector



Women in seaweed farming in NTT and marketing in Karimunjawa



Women in fish processing



Women in fish marketing



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



# Context: Socio-economics of Indonesian aquaculture

Number of people involved in Indonesian marketing and processing activities

	2011	2012	2013
<b>Processing</b>			
Male	485,758	524,633	524,640
Women	866,245	832,028	832,035
Total	1,352,003	1,356,661	1,356,675
<b>Marketing</b>			
Male	1,963,829	1,963,829	1,963,829
Women	2,882,316	2,882,316	2,882,316
Total	4,846,145	4,846,145	4,846,145

Source MMAF 2015

Data include commodities sourced from capture and aquaculture fisheries.



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations





# Context: Gender in Indonesian aquaculture sector

INPRES No. 9,  
2000

A joint decree of  
MMAF and  
MoWECP No.06  
MEN-KP/III/2011

Indonesian gender mainstreaming policies

*MoWECP: Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection.*  
*MMAF: Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Indonesia*

Government programs such as  
Sustainable Aquaculture  
Development for Food Security  
and Poverty Reduction  
(SAFVER) Project



Training and business cluster  
development

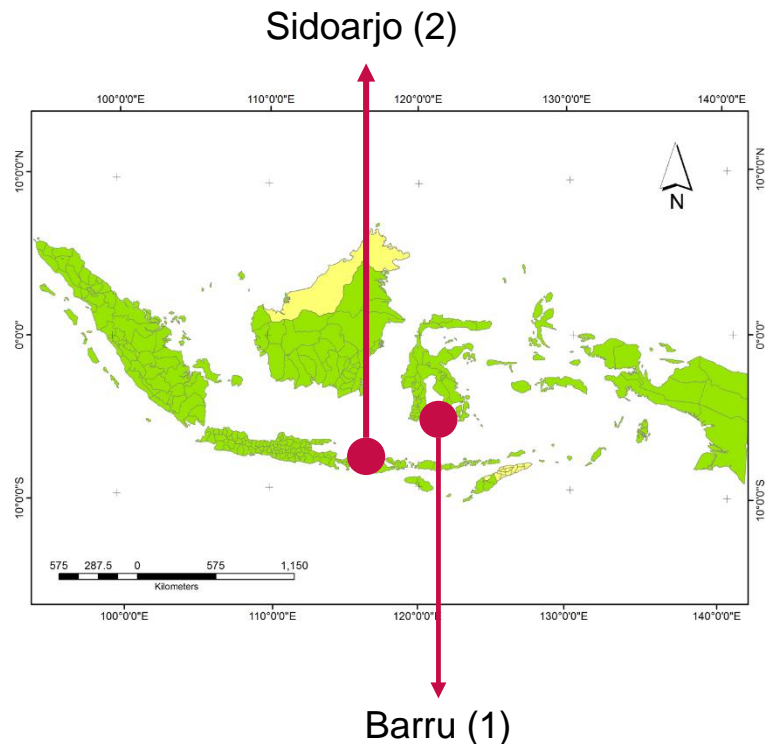
Barriers still exist including:  
gender and social norms;  
access to resources; and  
technical capacity.



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



# Methodology: Case study (1) Shrimp farming and (2) homestead milkfish processing.



- Traditional (extensive), modified-extensive, to semi-intensive and intensive systems shrimp farmers in Barro District.
  - *One case each for woman lead semi-/intensive and woman lead extensive systems.*
- Homestead milkfish processing in Sidoarjo District, East Java; opposed to Bangladeshi case (factory-based).
  - *Sidoarjo District is important for homestead processing industries*
  - *High degree of women's participation*



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



# Methodology: Research questions

---

*In what ways, to what extent, and why, are different women empowered (or disempowered) by their engagement in aquaculture?*

*i) What are the gendered patterns of engagement and roles women played by women in these types and nodes of aquaculture?*

*ii) What enabling and constraining factors shape these patterns and roles?*

*iii) What are the positive and negative outcomes for women in these different aquaculture roles and nodes?*

*iv) What factors shape these outcomes, including what enables or constrains women in successfully meeting their aspirations in or through aquaculture?*



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations





# Methodology

---

- **Data collection methods:** FGDs (5) and interviews (30); and observation
- **Total respondent for FGDs and interviews:** 69 respondents.
- **Respondents:**
  - ***Shrimp farming:*** lead operators and spouses; women involve in shrimp grading; head of community; government officials (Fishery Agency).
  - ***Milkfish processing:*** lead operators and spouses; women and one man involve in milkfish gutting and deboning; government officials (Extension Service Agency); head of community.
- **Respondent category:** disaggregated by social-economic groups (poor-; medium-; and high-wealth groups); and sex (for the lead operators).



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



# Methodology

---

- **Tools used:** Demographic and wealth ranking, Gendered roles, Benefits and costs, Enabling and constraining factors, Who decides what, Access to resources and services and Aspiration & Contributions to Empowerment using Ladder of the Ladder of Power and Freedom.
- **Definition of empowerment:** “empowerment is defined as “the expansion of people’s ability to make strategic life choices in a context where this ability was previously denied to them” (Kabeer 2001: p. 19).

## Limitations:

- Small qualitative inquiry
- Only able to identify two cases of women led shrimp farming



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



# Finding: Direct engagement of women in milkfish processing and shrimp farming



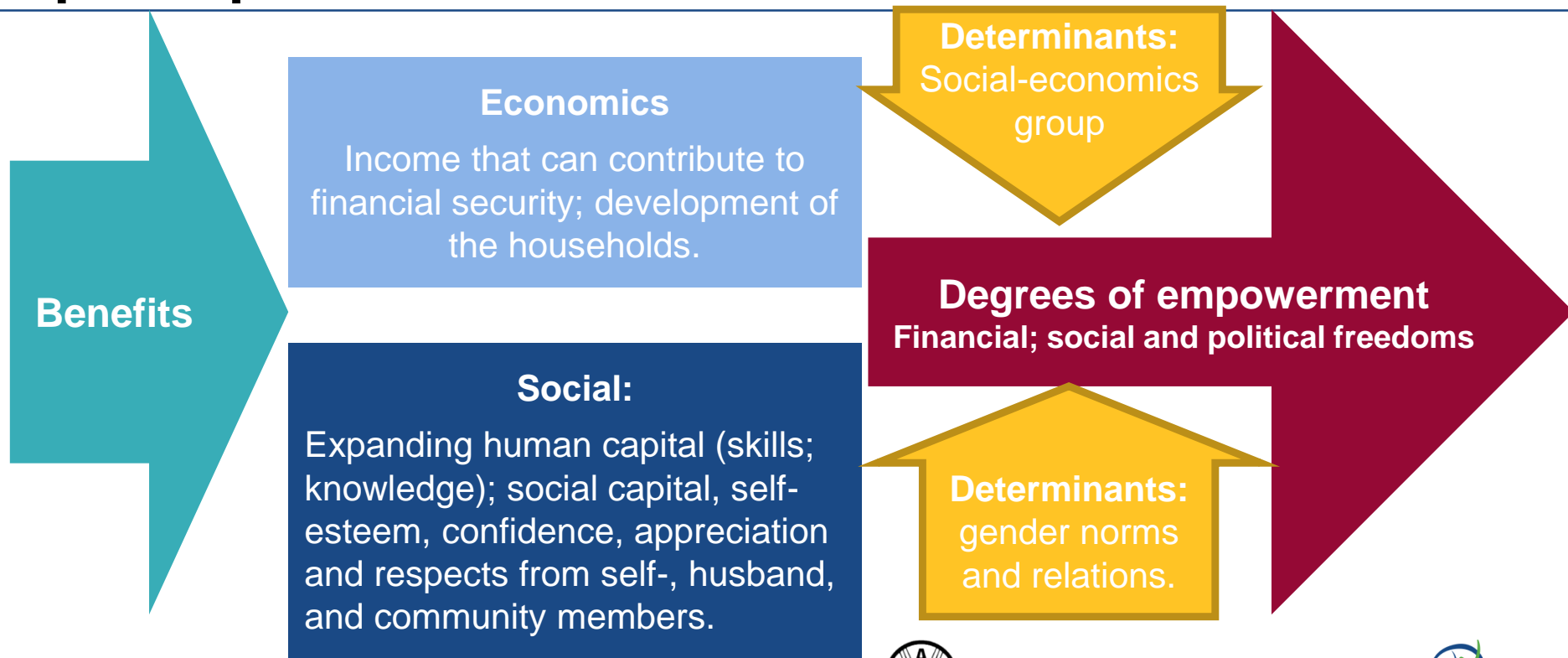
- Homestead milkfish processing industries provides significant opportunity for women; poor, unskilled women and full-time mothers.
- Shrimp farming case showed low participation of women, perceptions of the work's physical strength requirements (men's work).
- Women involve in shrimp grading, feeding (unpaid-labour)..
- Driving force: financial motivation.
- Women involve in household financial management.
- Limiting factors: socio-economics (financial; skills); social norms (gender roles and relations) esp. for shrimp farming; access to land (for shrimp farming) and training.



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



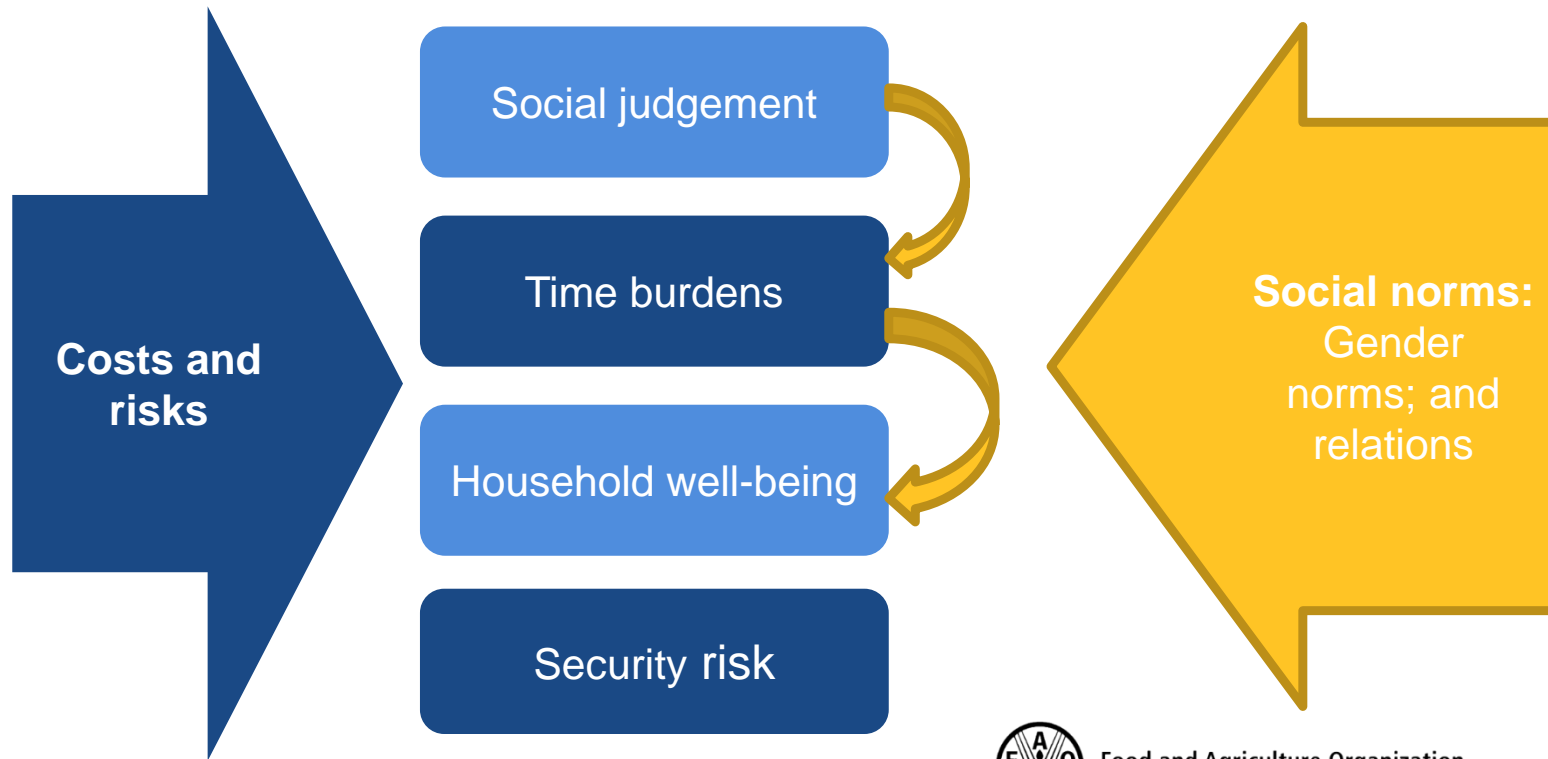
# Finding: Positive outcomes of women's participation



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



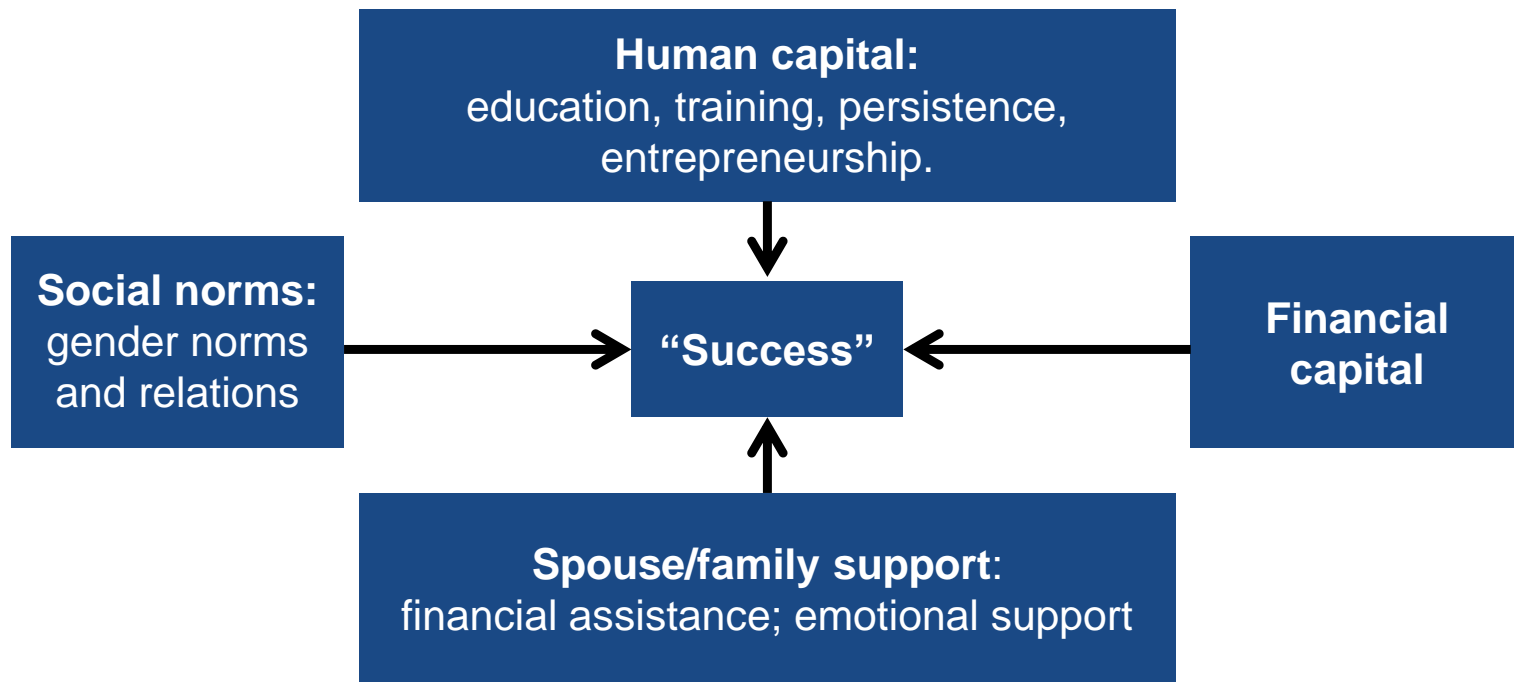
# Finding: Negative outcomes of women's participation



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



# Finding: Enabling and constraining factors for success



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations





# Policy implications and recommendations

## GENDER INCLUSION and AGENCY-BUILDING STRATEGIES

Aquaculture programs & networks apply context-specific strategies for gender-equitable (& pro-poor) inclusion and benefits

Multifaceted approaches applied in women-targeted programs

Technical strategies developed/applied to reduce time burdens, increase value



## GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE MECHANISMS

Shifting gender and social norms and gender relations

Policy supporting gender equal access to resources such as land ownership

Aquaculture programs engage both men and women in gender transformative strategies including to enable women's mobility and gendered role-sharing

- Both tangible and intangible barriers addressed
- More gender-equitable capabilities and enabling factors
- Multi-faceted and multi-scale social change



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



# Thank You



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



RESEARCH  
PROGRAM ON  
Livestock and Fish



Shrimp farmers and workers;  
milkfish business owners and  
workers.